GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2289
ANSWERED ON:15.03.2007
POOL FOR SHARING UPSTREAM INFRASTRUCTURE
Madhwaraj Smt. Manorama

Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether faced with acute shortage of deep sea drilling rigs the Directorate General of Hydrocarbons has mooted the proposal for forming a common pool for sharing upstream infrastructure among the oil exploring companies.

(b) if so, whether ONGC has the largest fleet of 29 rigs at its disposal;

(c) if so, whether ONGC has any idle rig capacity to spare;

(d) whether rentals for deep sea rigs have risen to an average of more than US Dollar 2,25,000 per day; and

(e) if so, to what extent this situation is likely to affect the deep sea explorations on Indian offshore currently underway?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM & NATURAL GAS (SHRI DINSHA PATEL)

(a) Yes, Sir.

(b) As on 1.03.2007, ONGC is operating twenty five (25) offshore drilling rigs nine (9) of which it owns. In addition, 70 ONGC owned drilling rigs are also deployed in onshore areas.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) & (e) The rates are market driven and vary depending on the type of rig, capability etc.